AIR POUCH
SECURITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
714.00/2-854

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 677 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — February 8, 1954 DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch 661, February 3, 1954

1400 ARA OLI U/CC OCB CIA ARMY NAVY AIR
FEB 8 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	DC/R-2 OAI-6 U/CC-1
	RECD 2/9	INFO OTHER CIA-1 CCB-2 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: President Arbenz States His Administration Will Not Retreat One Step.

714.00/2-854

In an extemporaneous speech at a dinner given in his honor by the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG) on February 2, President Jacobo ARBENZ stated flatly that his government would not retreat one step in domestic or foreign policy and called on the "revolutionary" parties backing him to unite against reactionary forces bent on turning back the clock. The President's remarks took on a special significance as they were made in a troubled period when the Guatemalan Government had denounced "an international plot" against it, the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry had expelled two correspondents of United States news organs, the authorities had obliged a U.S. citizen Franciscan priest to leave the country after his residence permit had expired, and the Communist-controlled national labor federation, CGTG, had confirmed the Communist hold on organized Guatemalan labor by reelecting its Communist officers.

According to newspaper summaries (no text has been published), President Arbenz said that since the 1944 Revolution the democratic forces had clashed with the reaction which had tried to turn the clock back and that though the concept of unity of the democratic forces had been set forth many times, it could not be repeated enough. Now, he continued, we are attacked by North American monopolies, by newspaper chains not only in the United States but also in Latin America and the whole world. We are attacked, he said, in the North American Senate and by officials of the Department of State. However, he concluded, we are absolutely certain that we are going to win because our movement represents an authentic movement of the people, a true revolution.

After the dinner the President was accosted by Alfonso SOLORZANO, Director of the PRG's Diario del Pueblo, who asked about freedom of the press. He stated categorically that freedom of the press would be maintained by his government.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:
2/9/54
William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

JCHill:cs
REPORTER

FILED
FEB 24 1954

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.